

CLAIMS

1. In a mobile station, a method of selecting a communication network comprising:

5 scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;

retrieving a plurality of network identifiers corresponding to the plurality of communication networks in accordance with an Enhanced Operator Name String (EONS) protocol;

10 visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers;

receiving a user input selection of one of the communication networks after visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers; and

registering with the selected communication network.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of retrieving comprises retrieving each network identifier based on a country code, a region code, and a cell number.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of retrieving comprises
20 retrieving each network identifier based on a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC).

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network identifiers comprises at least two network identifiers that are substantially the same.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of retrieving comprises
5 retrieving from memory of a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM).

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
visually displaying the network identifier corresponding to the selected
communication network.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of retrieving comprises
retrieving from memory of a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) based on a Mobile
Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code
(LAC), further comprising:

15 visually displaying the network identifier corresponding to the selected
communication network.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile station comprises a
Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)
20 compatible mobile station.

9. The method of claim 1, comprising the further act of:

providing an automatic network selection method based on the EONS protocol.

10. A mobile station, comprising:

5 a transceiver operative to scan to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;

a processor operative to retrieve a plurality of network identifiers corresponding to the plurality of communication networks in accordance with an Enhanced Operator Name String (EONS) protocol;

10 a visual display operative to visually display the plurality of network identifiers;

the processor being further operative to receive a user input selection of one of the communication networks after visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers; and

15 the transceiver being further operative to register with the selected communication network.

11. The mobile station of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operative to retrieve each network identifier based on a country code, a region
20 code, and a cell number.

12. The mobile station of claim 10, wherein the processor is further operative to retrieve each network identifier based a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC).

5 13. The mobile station of claim 10, wherein the processor and the visual display are operative to retrieve and visually display, respectively, at least two network identifiers that are substantially the same.

14. The mobile station of claim 10, further comprising:
10 a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) interface through which the processor is operative to retrieve the plurality of network identifiers.

15. The mobile station of claim 10, wherein the visual display is further operative to visually display the network identifier corresponding to the selected
15 communication network.

16. The mobile station of claim 15, wherein the processor is further operative to retrieve each network identifier based a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC).

20 17. The mobile station of claim 10, further comprising:
a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) interface through which the processor is operative to retrieve the plurality of network identifiers;

wherein the processor is further operative to retrieve each network identifier through the SIM interface based a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC); and

wherein the visual display is further operative to visually display the network identifier corresponding to the selected communication network.

18. The mobile station of claim 10, further comprising a Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) compatible mobile station.

19. A method of manually selecting a communication network in a mobile station comprising the acts of:

scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;

retrieving, from memory of a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM), a plurality of network identifiers corresponding to the plurality of communication networks in accordance with an Enhanced Operator Name String (EONS) protocol;

wherein each network identifier is retrieved based on a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC);

simultaneously visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers, including at least two network identifiers that are substantially identical;

receiving a user input selection of one of the communication networks after visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers;

registering with the selected communication network; and
visually displaying the network identifier associated with the selected communication network.

5 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile station comprises a Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) compatible mobile station.

 21. A mobile station, comprising:
10 a transceiver operative to scan to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;
 a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) interface configured to receive a SIM;
 a processor operative to retrieve, through the SIM interface, a plurality of network identifiers corresponding to the plurality of communication networks in
15 accordance with an Enhanced Operator Name String (EONS) protocol;
 the processor being further operative to retrieve each network identifier based on a Mobile Country Code (MCC), a Mobile Network Code (MNC), and a Location Area Code (LAC);
 a visual display operative to simultaneously visually display the plurality
20 of network identifiers;
 the processor being further operative to receive a user input selection of one of the communication networks after visually displaying the plurality of network identifiers;

the transceiver being further operative to register with the selected communication network; and

the visual display being further operative to visually display the network identifier corresponding to the selected communication network.

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22. The mobile station of claim 21, comprising a Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) compatible mobile station.

10 23. The mobile station of claim 21, wherein the processor is further operative to retrieve the plurality of network identifiers from memory of the SIM.

24. The mobile station of claim 21, wherein at least two network identifiers which are retrieved and visually displayed are substantially the same.

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